

Minutes of Selectmens Meeting
August 5, 1996

Selectmen Present: Paula Clemente, Peter Moore and Carol Smith
Also present were Phil Dwight, ^{APR}Andrea Gilbert and Syd Smith from
F.A.C.T.

The meeting commenced at 6 P.M.

Ms. Gilbert made a presentation about F.A.C.T., its program and
the grant it had received. She indicated that the grant was for
planning for the possibility of a Family Resource Center. The
group would be exploring with various communities if and/or where
such a center would be located. She will keep the selectmen
informed as the study proceeds. Attached is an article by Debra
Thornblad in The Villager which outlines the objectives and
benefits to the community of a resource center.

The Selectmen then opened the bids for the town vehicles and the
tax deeded property. The results are as follows:

Ford Explorer: Mark Gottenberg - Saugerties N.Y. \$6,666.00

NOTE: 20 bids ranging from \$500 to a total of 6 over \$5000.

GMC Dump Truck: One bid was received. A decision on acceptance
of the bid will be made by Wednesday.

Land Parcels:

- #1 Withdrawn from auction.
- #2 15 acres on Gregg Lake Road
Jay Cox, Bennington \$2,100.00
- #3 Withdrawn from auction.
- #4 6.31 acres on Farmstead Road
Jeffrey & Betty Lowell, Jaffrey \$5,200.00
- #5 No bids received.

The minutes of the July 29th meeting were approved.

Intents to Cut for Meadowsend Timberlands and Gertrude Mulhall
were approved.

Phil reported:

1. Mary Davidson had filed an abatement appeal with the Board of Land & Tax appeals.
2. Mr. Morten's call that progress was being made in resolving the unpaid tax issue.
3. The Town had received agreement from the Reinerts about purchasing 5 Davison Drive.
4. Receipt of answer from 5 property owners on 2nd NH Turnpike about the "No Salt" survey.
5. Repairs, as approved, were under way at the Aiken House.
6. Mike Beauchamp and Rick Edmunds were contacted about the use of the small pond on Gregg Lake Road as a fire pond. Both indicated that it was not needed. They did want the fire pond at the corner of Gregg Lake Road and Old Hancock Road restored. Phil indicated he was obtaining an estimate to do this.
7. Bennington and Hancock do not accept construction material at their transfer station. Frankestown does. Greenfield accepts some. A decision on what Antrim will do next year will be made later.

Peter reported on his meeting with Mrs. Ali-Oglu re the Library driveway. Various options were discussed. Mrs. Ali-Oglu has requested a meeting with the Library Trustees on Monday August 12th. Paula will try to attend.

The board voted to grant a liquor permit for the Fireman's muster on August 11th.

The Board voted to establish a Joint Loss Management Committee. Members will originally consist of Phil Dwight, Brian Brown and Bob Varnum. Membership will be reviewed and/or enlarged as needed.

A letter from Bob and Sarah Edwards relative to the hill on Turner Hill Road was reviewed. Phil was asked to talk to Bob about obtaining cost estimates to do what was asked.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Philip T. Dwight.

Resource Center Would Support Families

By Debra Thornblad

All families need support at sometime.

That simple statement is behind a proposal to organize an Antrim Family Resource Center (AFRC). The plan was presented to Antrim selectmen Monday night by F.A.C.T. (Families and Communities Together) member Andrea Gilbert.

According to a one page information sheet about the proposed center "The purpose (would be) to strengthen families. It would provide the tools of information, support and education to promote successful parenting and positive child development. The hope of the AFRC is to be a responsive and flexible force in the community (Antrim, Bennington, Greenfield) resulting in healthy families. Simply, the AFRC endeavors to present difficulties from occurring."

The FACT coalition has received a \$58,650 Health Care Transition Fund planning grant to facilitate the community-based planning and development of the center. The goal, however, is to turn it over to leadership within the community. FACT will not run the center, she said

BACKGROUND

Families and Communities Together (FACT) was started about four and one-half years ago in response to the statewide "Success by Six" initiative, Gilbert said.

At an annual meeting of the N.H. School Board Association, a number of speakers talked about the link between children's success and the future of the country. Afterwards groups sat around at tables and brainstormed.

"A number of older principals and superintendents talked about the kinds of problems kids were coming to school with, how they were not able to benefit from being in the classroom because they were distracted by these other issues. It was upsetting to see these older people so distressed

about this," she said. "We were challenged to go back to our communities and do a needs assessment of what students need to be successful in school."

Gilbert, who has a background and education in early intervention, wrote a press release and called a conference at the then Peterborough Savings Bank.

"The group was large at first, but then got smaller and that smaller group got together and began working on a mission statement," she said. They have been meeting monthly ever since. Sub-groups were formed to work on various issues as well.

FACT's service area includes 11 towns: Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Frankestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Jaffrey, Peterborough, Rindge, Sharon, and Temple.

"We're an advocacy coalition," Gilbert said. "We don't do direct services."

FACT has brought together a coalition of service providers, including, in part, Home Health Care & Community Services, Southern N.H. Services, Women's Crisis Services, Monadnock Family Services, schools, Parent Guidance Center, nurse midwives, and churches. FACT has helped to tie these services together for people with multiple problems.

"They've been working together so long now that they've bonded. At this point they just call each other on the phone, rather than go through their agencies," she said.

FACT has also published a parents' resource guide "Help for young families," which includes such topics as: help in a hurry, help getting food, getting clothes and furniture, finding a place to live, getting help with money, finding someone to talk to, finding medical help, finding legal help, getting a ride, finding child care and preschools and having fun. A second edition is almost ready.

FACT was also responsible for starting playgroups for preschool children in Antrim, Bennington and Greenfield. Gilbert said the Greenfield one has now

been taken over others and Antrim's and Bennington's are no longer active. "We found we weren't really hitting our target population," she said, that is families who couldn't afford preschool and thus were isolated and needed help getting into communities.

Antrim Center

The idea for the Antrim Resource Center came about because there is no one place for families to go to get information about what help is available.

FACT had been operating as an information center without walls for four years. Many of the service providers, such as Monadnock Family Services and the WIC program kept saying it would be nice to have a place in Antrim, Gilbert said.

"The idea is we get some space, then people from various agencies would have a place to deliver services," she said. "The goal is to offer something for everyone. It's about family support, strengthening all families and being what the community wants it to be."

The one-year grant is primarily a planning grant with a small amount of funding for implementation, she said. The implementation part includes rent for one year and a 15-hour family services coordinator. The vision is that a community board evolve, become non-profit and take it over. It is not the intent the center become a tax-supported operation.

"We're going to proceed very slowly. It will be what the community wants and what's affordable. We're just starting modestly and with no illusions about what it will become."

Initially the part-time coordinator will provide information and referral to families, help to schedule appointments with service providers who would come to the center, and direct a parent-child play group. What other services the center may offer later on will depend on what the community wants, Gilbert said.

"It's a very simple thing," she said. "It's opening a door for families, one that has no stigma. That's why it's important to develop this as something for all families. All families need support at some time."

Ice Cream Window
Smoked BBQ
Chicken & Sausage